

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 9, 21, and 22 as follows. Please add new claims 27-29 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
maintaining partner information about predefined partner networks, the partner information indicating that network operators share a serving network node, and
selecting a gateway network node for a mobile station served by the serving network node on the basis of the partner information,
wherein the selecting of the gateway network node for the mobile station on the basis of the partner information comprises
checking, in a network apparatus, on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of a home network; and
selecting, in the network apparatus, the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.
2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the partner information comprises direct or indirect indications of
the network in which the mobile station is located, and of
the home network of the mobile station.
3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the selecting a gateway network node for the mobile station on the basis of the partner information comprises

checking on the basis of the partner information whether the mobile station is in a network that is a predefined partner network of the one belonging to its home network operator; and

selecting the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is in a network that is a predefined partner network of the one belonging to its home network operator.

5. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

at least one mobile station;

a subscriber register configured to maintain subscriber information of the mobile station;

at least two networks to which the mobile station connects when the mobile station is within the area of the network, one of the networks being a home network of the mobile station, the networks comprising at least one gateway network node to interact between packet switched mobile networks and external data networks;

at least one serving network node configured to serve the mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node,

wherein the system is configured to maintain partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of the home network, the home network sharing at least one serving network node with each of the predefined partner networks;

wherein the system is further configured to
check, in a network apparatus, on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network, and
select, in the network apparatus, the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

6. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the partner information is maintained in the serving network node to indicate the networks sharing the serving network node.

7. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 6, wherein the serving network node is configured to compare the mobile network code/mobile country code of the mobile station, in connection with the context activation of the mobile station, with access point name operator identifiers stored for each network operator sharing the serving network node, said mobile network code/mobile country code indicating explicitly the home network of the mobile station and said access point name operator identifier indicating implicitly the partner information.

8. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the serving network node is also configured to connect a mobile station located in a mobile network that is a predefined partner network of its home network to the gateway network node of the home network.

9. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 5, wherein the partner information is maintained in ~~a~~the subscriber register.

10. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 9, wherein the subscriber register is configured to

check the partner information in connection with the location update of the mobile station;

set the value of a “Visitor-PLMN address allowed”-flag to ‘No’ if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

indicate the value of the flag to the serving network node.

11. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the serving network node is also configured to connect the mobile station located in a predefined partner network of its home network to the gateway network node of the home network.

12. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the subscriber

register is configured to

check the partner information in connection with the location update of the mobile station, the partner information comprising at least one network belonging to the home network operator;

set value of the “Visitor-PLMN address allowed”-flag to ‘Yes’ if the mobile station is located in a network that is a predefined partner network of the one belonging to its home network operator; and

indicate the value of the flag to the serving network node.

13. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the serving network node is also configured to connect the mobile station located in a predefined partner network of the one belonging to its home network operator to the gateway network node of the visited network on the basis of the partner information, the partner information comprising at least one network belonging to the home network operator.

14. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 9, wherein the subscriber register is configured to

compare the mobile network code/mobile country code of the mobile station with access point name operator identifiers stored for each network operator sharing the network in connection with the location update of the mobile station; and

indicate the result of the comparison to the serving network node.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a first routine configured to maintain partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of a network, a partner network and a home network sharing at least one serving network node, wherein the serving network node is configured to serve a mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node;

a second routine configured to check the partner information of the mobile station;

a third routine configured to indicate, on the basis of the partner information, the gateway network node, to which the mobile station is to be connected, to the serving network node serving the mobile station;

a checking unit configured to check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

an indicator configured to indicate the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a first routine configured to check partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of a network, the partner network and a home network sharing the apparatus;

a second routine configured to select a gateway network node on the basis of the partner information;

a checking unit configured to check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

a selector configured to select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network .

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising a third routine configured to maintain partner information.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the apparatus is a serving general packet radio service support node of a general packet radio service network.

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:
partner information checking means for checking partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of a network, a partner network and a home network sharing the apparatus;

selecting means for selecting a gateway network node on the basis of the partner information;

checking means for checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

predefined partner network selecting means for selecting the gateway network

node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

maintaining means for maintaining partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of a network, a partner network and a home network sharing at least one serving network node, wherein the serving network node is configured to serve a mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node;

partner information checking means for checking the partner information of the mobile station;

gateway network node indicating means for indicating, on the basis of the partner information, the gateway network node, to which the mobile station is to be connected, to the serving network node serving the mobile station;

checking means for checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

predefined partner network indicating means for indicating the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

21. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

checking partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks

of a network, a partner network and a home network sharing ~~the apparatus~~ at least one serving network node;

selecting a gateway network node on the basis of the partner information;

checking, in a network apparatus, on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

selecting, in the network apparatus, the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

22. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

maintaining partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of a network, a partner network and a home network sharing at least one serving network node, wherein the serving network node is configured to serve a mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node;

checking the partner information of the mobile station;

indicating, on the basis of the partner information, the gateway network node, to which the mobile station is to be connected, to the serving network node serving the mobile station;

checking, in a network apparatus, on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

indicating, in the network apparatus, the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the selecting of the gateway network node for the mobile station on the basis of the partner information comprises

checking on the basis of the partner information whether the mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them;

selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network; and

selecting the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

24. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the system is configured to

check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them,

select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network, and

select the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein

the checking unit is configured to check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them; and

the indicator is configured to indicate the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network, and to indicate the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

26. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

the checking unit is configured to check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them; and

the selector is configured to select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network, and to select the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

27. (New) A computer program product comprising a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium, the computer program being configured to

cause, if the program is executed, an apparatus to perform at least the following:

maintaining partner information about predefined partner networks, the partner information indicating that network operators share a serving network node, and

selecting a gateway network node for a mobile station served by the serving network node on the basis of the partner information,

wherein the selecting of the gateway network node for the mobile station on the basis of the partner information comprises

checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of a home network; and

selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

28. (New) A computer program product comprising a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium, the computer program being configured to cause, if the program is executed, an apparatus to perform at least the following:

checking partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of a network, a partner network and a home network sharing at least one serving network node;

selecting a gateway network node on the basis of the partner information;

checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

29. (New) A computer program product comprising a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium, the computer program being configured to cause, if the program is executed, an apparatus to perform at least the following:

maintaining partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of a network, a partner network and a home network sharing at least one serving network node, wherein the serving network node is configured to serve a mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node;

checking the partner information of the mobile station;

indicating, on the basis of the partner information, the gateway network node, to which the mobile station is to be connected, to the serving network node serving the mobile station;

checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

indicating the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.